NEWS

Wright-Locke Farm ends public raspberry picking

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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A raspberry field at Wright-Locke Farm in 2018. The farm will no longer offer U-Pick options for the public, according to its newsletter and website. COURTESY PHOTO/WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM

If you were planning to pick raspberries this summer, you'll be disappointed. The Wright-Locke Farm newsletter has announced will no longer allow the activity.

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"While change isn't always easy, it is critical to improve," the newsletter says. "U-Pick raspberries have been a staple of Wright-Locke Farm for the last 50 years.... However, environmental changes have made fruit farming on our land increasingly difficult."

Planning to pick raspberries at Wright-Locke Farm this summer? That will no longer be possible, as the farm is no longer allowing the public to pick them. COURTESY PHOTO/WIKIPEDIA

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Wright-Locke listed its reasons, saying a fruit fly called the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) has been destroying the fruit, and the farm lacks enough staff and volunteers to maintain a healthy crop. In the beds where the berries used to grow, there is a plan to grow more produce and maximize the two acres of growing fields.

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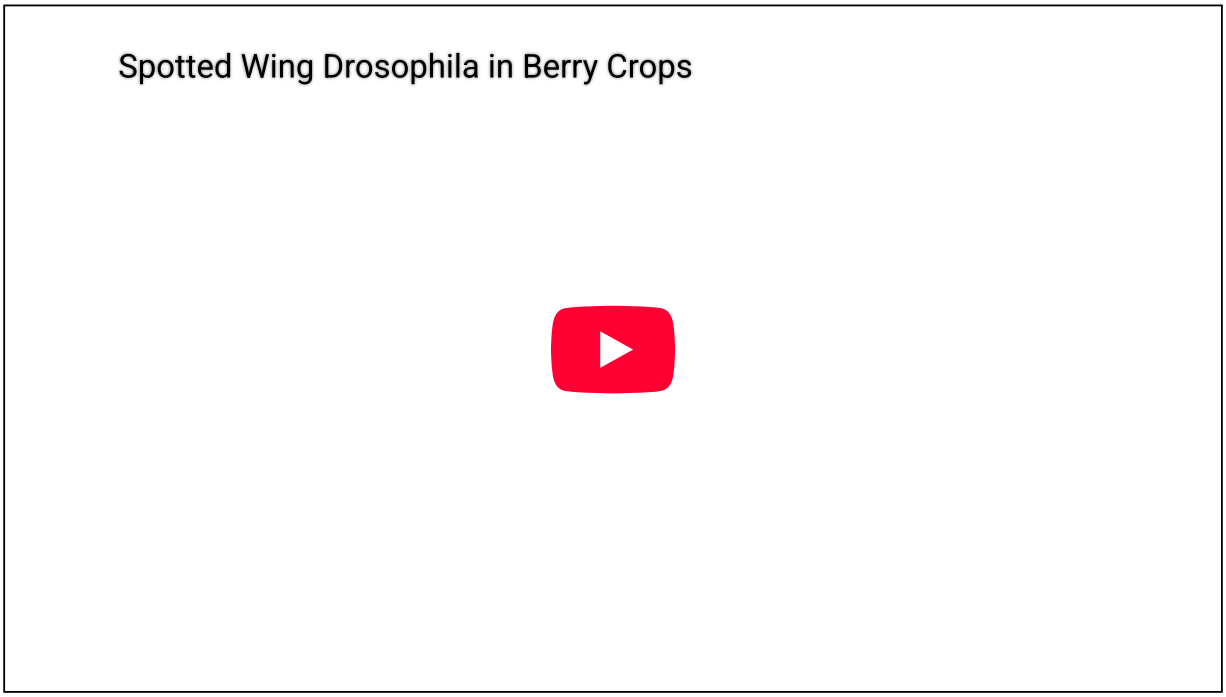
"When the Hamilton family made this land a one-crop farm, the going to farmers markets to provide the community with a variety of

produce. Also, the SWD fruit fly wasn't here yet!" Wright-Locke's website clarifies. "Originating in East Asia, this fruit fly has been an increasingly difficult challenge, and as temperatures are warming, it is laying larvae earlier in the season. The larvae feed on the inside of the raspberry, breaking it down into a squishy mess."



As an organic farm, Wright-Locke doesn't use chemicals on its crops so, as the site says, "having a smaller raspberry crop that we can professionally manage is best." Raspberries will still be available at the farm market.

By producing raspberries, the last family to own the farm maintained its agricultural status, which meant their town taxes were considerably reduced. When the town took over the farm in 2015, the tradition continued.

But as one Facebook member said, "The world is changing and farmers have to do what they need to survive."

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No more picking raspberries for residents at Wright-Locke Farm, but the farm will still make the berries available at its shop. COURTESY PHOTO/WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM

The community farm, one of the oldest continually operating farms within Rt. 128, is always looking for volunteers. Find out more here.

Still looking to pick raspberries or other fruit this summer? Check out this list of Pick Your Own farms in the local area.

Winchester News editor Nell Escobar Coakley contributed to this repo

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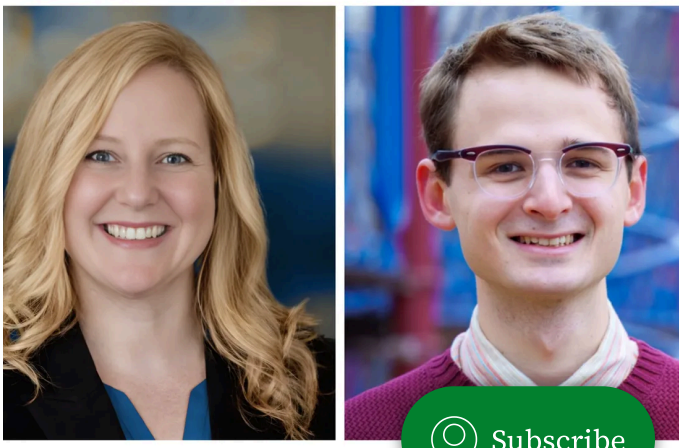

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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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